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JAMES POLK LATTA

(Late a Representative from Nebraska)

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

DELIVERED IN THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE
OF THE UNITED STATES

SIXTY-SECOND CONGRESS

Proceedings in the House
May 26, 1912

Proceedings in the Senate
March 1, 1913

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W. H. L. A. T. L.

DEATH OF HON. JAMES POLK LATTA

PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE

MONDAY, *December 4, 1911.*

Mr. LOBECK. Mr. Speaker, just after the close of the last session we received the sad news that the Hon. JAMES P. LATTA, a Member from the State of Nebraska, had passed away to the great beyond. I had known Mr. LATTA for over 30 years, and I know that he had the love and respect of every Member and colleague of this House. I send to the desk the following resolution, and in the future, at the proper time, I wish to speak about my honored friend and colleague.

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

House resolution 310

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Hon. JAMES P. LATTA, late a Representative from the State of Nebraska.

Resolved, That the Clerk of the House be directed to transmit a copy of these resolutions to the Senate.

The resolution was agreed to.

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will read the other resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

House resolution 312

Resolved, As a further mark of respect to the memory of the the Hon. EDMOND H. MADISON and the Hon. JAMES P. LATTA, the House do now adjourn.

The resolution was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 18 minutes p. m.) the House adjourned until to-morrow, Tuesday, December 5, 1911, at 12 o'clock meridian.

MONDAY, *April 22, 1912.*

Mr. STEPHENS of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Sunday, May 26, 1912, at 12 o'clock m., be set apart for addresses upon the life, character, and public services of the Hon. JAMES P. LATTA, late a Representative from the State of Nebraska.

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will report the order.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ordered, That Sunday, May 26, 1912, at 12 o'clock m., be set apart for addresses upon the life, character, and public services of Hon. JAMES P. LATTA, late a Representative from the State of Nebraska.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the present consideration of the order? [After a pause.] The Chair hears none.

The question was taken, and the order was agreed to.

SUNDAY, *May 26, 1912.*

The House met at 12 o'clock noon, and was called to order by Mr. Lobeck as Speaker pro tempore.

The Chaplain, Rev. Henry N. Couden, D. D., offered the following prayer:

O Thou who hast called us into being and filled our souls with longings, hopes, and aspirations which time nor space can measure, our wisdom, strength, and love are but reflections of Thy wisdom, power, and goodness. Thou knowest the beginning and the end; we are Thine, dependent upon Thee. Increase our faith and confidence, and awaken in us the brightest hopes, that we may lean on Thee and look forward without fear, since Thy love encircles all. It were not more difficult for Thee to extend our being into some one of Thy many mansions than to have called us into existence. Thou hast taught us to love life; to think of annihilation is overwhelming. When

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our friends are taken from us our hearts are rent and torn with sorrow and grief, but the angel of love whispers:

Be still, sad heart, and cease repining;
Behind the clouds is the sun still shining.

We can not think our friends out of existence; they remain a part of us. Be this our solace as we here gather on this quiet, peaceful Sabbath day in memory of one who served his State and Nation as a legislator under the Dome of this great Capitol, chosen for the high station by the people who knew him and had confidence in his integrity and ability to serve them. May his bereaved wife and children cherish his virtues and look forward with the brightest anticipations to a reunion beyond the confines of this transitory existence, where they will dwell with him forever, and everlasting praise be Thine through Him who taught us Thy love and the immortality of the soul. Amen.

The Clerk began the reading of the Journal of the proceedings of yesterday.

Mr. STEPHENS of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the further reading of the Journal be dispensed with.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Nebraska asks unanimous consent to dispense with the further reading of the Journal. Is there objection?

There was no objection.

The Journal was approved.

Mr. STEPHENS of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I offer the resolution which I send to the Clerk's desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Nebraska offers a resolution, which will be reported by the Clerk.

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES: REPRESENTATIVE LATTA

The Clerk read as follows:

House resolution 552

Resolved, That the business of the House be now suspended that opportunity may be given to pay tribute to the memory of Hon. JAMES P. LATTA, late a Member of the House from the State of Nebraska.

Resolved, That as a particular mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, and in recognition of his distinguished public career, the House, at the conclusion of these exercises, shall stand adjourned.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

Resolved, That the Clerk send a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

The resolution was unanimously agreed to.

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

ADDRESS OF MR. STEPHENS, OF NEBRASKA

MR. SPEAKER: We have gathered here to-day to pay tribute to the memory of one of the grand old men of this country, the Hon. JAMES P. LATTA, late Member of Congress from the third Nebraska district. He was born near Ashland, Ohio, October 31, 1844, and died at Rochester, Minn., where he had undergone a surgical operation, on September 11, 1911. He was, therefore, nearly 67 years of age at his death. He spent the early part of his life in eastern Iowa, and when he was 18 years of age he set out for the Territory of Nebraska, traveling alone and on foot the 400 miles across Iowa to his future home in Burt County, where he took up a homestead and where he lived the remainder of his life. His homestead at his death consisted of 3,000 acres of rich Nebraska land lying in the valley at the foot of the Missouri River bluffs. On the slope of the bluffs he built his first home, overlooking the endless miles of rich land untouched by the hand of man. From his doorstep he could see the tall wild grasses glinting and billowing in the sun for 25 miles lying spread out at his feet in a panorama of beauty. It was truly a land of magnificent distances and of great promise of rich reward to those who would subdue it. And to this home he brought his young bride, and there in that beautiful environment they reared their two splendid sons and have materially aided in the development of a great Commonwealth.

Men partake of the character of the country that produces them, and it naturally follows, as day follows night, that our friend should have been a man of large parts. He saw everything in a large way in its relation to the country as a whole, rather than how it might affect him personally at the time. He was never petty either in politics, religion, or business, and never separated his interests from that of the community. He grew so rapidly in business because of the responsiveness of that hospitable land to intelligent effort that in a very short time he became a large factor in the county and State, not only in business but in politics as well. From a farmer, stockman, and beef producer on a large scale he became a banker, and later on a member of the house and senate in the State legislature. In fact he became the financial backbone of his county in times of drought and panic when the small men look to cover to protect themselves. In 1893, after a few years of drought, when the faith of the hard-pressed farmers was about all oozed out, the panic came on to cap the climax. Mr. LATTA had already about exhausted his resources in backing up his faith in the country's future, and this final blow would have completely discouraged and driven to cover all but the bravest and best. But he never wavered in his faith or turned aside in his course. He simply gathered up another bunch of farm mortgages and started East on a hunt for more money with which to save the farmers from utter ruin. By pledging his honor and credit to the last dollar he always came back smiling with succor for the needy. When the broken and totally discouraged farmers, battling against the vicissitudes of nature and the cowardly fear of money lenders, would come to him he put heart into them and sent them back with the assurance that as long as he could hold out he would stand by them. No man knows what a friend like that

means to him until he has been pressed to the very brink and is being pushed off, as were those poor drought-stricken farmers in the panic of 1893.

He was a benefactor to his people and for years after, as liquidation was extremely slow, it took all the courage he could muster to keep hundreds of discouraged men from abandoning their lands and giving up the fight. Here is where the devil took our friend up in the mountain top and showed him an empire he could take possession of by the mere acceptance as a gift, what all these men wanted to give, to get rid of further struggle against what seemed to them great odds. They wanted to turn over their lands and cancel the debts. The real test of manhood does not come when men are holding positions of trust under the public eye. It is easy enough to be a man when the band is playing a triumphant march and the world is applauding, but it is quite another thing to do your duty when you are hard pressed and no one but God and yourself are looking on. In such cases even God is sometimes forgotten. Yet I am glad to record that our friend whose memory we revere to-day stood the test. With the mere act of acceptance he could have taken the titles to thousands of acres of the richest land in the world, but instead he gave these broken-spirited men hope to work on, and in a few years the tide turned in their favor.

Cæsar put aside the crown offered him by his countrymen, but the plaudits of the multitude were ringing in his ears. But here our dead friend put aside great wealth that was being thrust upon him because he believed in the Golden Rule and practiced it in his business. He knew these broken-spirited men could not get a fair view of their situation because of their distress, and he was too big to take advantage of them.

As the years went by and prosperity returned these men baptized in the fires of hard times and misfortune of every kind began to come into their own, and one by one they redeemed their homes and got back their titles and never paid a cent of tribute for the splendid service this grand old man of Nebraska rendered them. So it leads me to say that after all it matters little when a man was born or when he died or what station he reached in life, but it matters greatly how he lived. The history of northeastern Nebraska is largely a history of the life and work of Mr. LATTA, and when the end came and we all gathered around his bier it was largely a gathering of those seasoned pioneers who had felt the grip of his friendly hand in times of stress—men who had carved an empire out of the wilderness and made it into the garden spot of the world.

He was just the sort of man required for the work of conquering a new land. He was big and brawny in body and clear of mind. Having been born and raised on the frontier he had little school advantages, yet, in spite of this handicap, he was one of the best-educated men I have ever known, according to my own standards of what the word education means. If that man is best educated who can do the most useful things, then, according to that test, our friend had no peer in the West. He has a record of accomplishments that very few men possess. He has demonstrated his ability to successfully perform every class of work from that of a farm hand to that of a legislator in Congress. There was not a single occupation followed by our people of the West that Congressman LATTA did not master and could not do better than his fellows. He knew the secrets of nature better than any schooled scientist knew them, and he knew how to wrest from the kindly old earth her glad tribute to those who understand her ways.

It was a most remarkable gathering of pioneers who assembled around his bier when we laid his body away on an eminence overlooking the great Valley of the Missouri. There he had stood as a boy and viewed the splendid prospect with much satisfaction, and there we laid his body nearly 50 years afterwards, where the first rays of the morning sun would silver the grasses over his grave.

The tribute to his memory paid him by these neighbors and friends was the most touching and beautiful I have ever witnessed, and it proved beyond a question of doubt that the rewards of an honest and unselfish life of service are beyond human understanding. It inspired me to hope that I might live long enough to be as useful and well beloved by my neighbors and countrymen as was he.

But the finest tribute of all was paid him daily by his two splendid sons, in their loyalty and admiration of him. These boys, now grown to be busy men of large affairs, up to the day of their father's illness were his constant companions, and every day of their lives, if circumstances permitted, they spent an hour or so with their father talking over their affairs, their hopes and ambitions. I have never known greater appreciation shown a father than these boys showed for theirs. It is a touching proof of the great and kindly intelligent soul of the man who could command the love and admiration of his grown sons in such a manner.

We can not prove by scientific data what the condition of life is on the finer planes of matter where men go after they have laid off their earthly garments, but by analogy we can approximate it, and it is reasonable to assume that the conditions there are closely related to the conditions here, and that the process of growth continues in an unbroken line. That would seem to be a universal law, and we need have no fear of crossing this line of

demarcation. The God of the universe only puts us to sleep while the crossing is being made, and I anticipate that our dear old friend has found plenty to do in that new land across the border. I hope he has found work befitting his great strength and courage, and that his life will be as useful there as it has been here.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have incorporated in my remarks a biographical sketch of Mr. LATTA, written by a close personal friend of his and published in the Burt County (Nebr.) Herald, and also an account of the funeral services.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Nebraska asks unanimous consent to print in the Record a biographical sketch and account of the funeral of the late Representative LATTA. Is there objection?

There was no objection.

The biographical sketch and description of the funeral of Mr. LATTA are as follows:

IN MEMORY OF CONGRESSMAN LATTA

[By J. R. Sutherland, editor Burt County Herald]

"Congressman JAMES P. LATTA died at 7.20 this evening," was the Associated Press dispatch flashed over the wire from Rochester, Minn., Monday evening that brought deep sorrow into many a home in Tekamah, the home town of the deceased.

It was here where he came when a boy of 18 years. It was here where he began life by working by the month, chopping wood, breaking prairie, or teaching school. It was here where he bought his first 40 acres and built his first cabin. He commenced farming and raising and feeding cattle, at which he was very successful. He kept on increasing his land holdings until now he owned nearly 3,000 acres. It was here where he engaged in the banking business in 1877 and in 1890 organized the First National Bank of Tekamah, of which he continued to be president until his death. It was here where he was married December 29, 1870, to Miss Libbie Jonas, of Jackson County, Iowa, and reared and educated their two sons, Ed and Bur, in our schools.

No man could be held in higher esteem by the people whom he associated with all these years than was Mr. LATTA. He had

ADDRESS OF MR. STEPHENS, OF NEBRASKA

their confidence and respect to such an extent that they loved to honor him in every way possible. He served the city as mayor, councilman, and treasurer; he served the county in the legislature in the session of 1887; he was elected State senator in 1906, and was a member of that reform session of 1907. It was Mr. LATTI who introduced the first bill for the present 2-cent passenger fare. In public matters he knew no party lines; with him it was what is best for the public welfare. He assisted in the passage of all reform measures in that memorable session. It was his record in the senate that singled him out for his party as a winning candidate for Congress in this third congressional district in 1908. He was again reelected in 1910 by the largest majority ever received by a Congressman in Nebraska. In the Masonic order, of which he was an early member of the local lodge, he was master for several terms, and he was past high priest of the Royal Arch and past commander of the Jordan Commandery of Knights Templar.

We have no gift of eloquence or command of language with which to grace a splendid eulogy, ours is the simple tribute of a friend—a friend who knows no words commensurate with the mighty flood of feeling that surges through his breast. Why eulogy? Are not his own life and character his most eloquent eulogy?

When we remember how he succeeded in every field that he engaged his interests in and to which he gave his endeavor, when we remember his unswerving loyalty to every cause that he espoused, to every promise that he made, to every friend that he had, we begin to appreciate his true worth—he was a man made to be loved, and he was loved. To-day the world seems to be lonesome without him. We miss his kindly face, his cordial handclasp, his genial companionship, his helpful counsel. To those who knew him as we knew him for more than 40 years, he was an unusually lovable man. He was bright, cheery, kind, strong, and ever ready to lend a helping hand. Combined with these characteristics, he was blessed with good intellectual endowment, a powerful physique, and a pleasing personality, an agreeable voice, and an absolute freedom from affectation. His conceptions were quick and remarkably accurate. His judgment was uncommonly good of both men and measures. He had a wonderful faculty of approaching men, although at times almost

bluntly, in such a manner as to prepossess them favorably both as to himself and his object. Few men have been favored with such a rare combination of faculties and powers as he possessed, and yet lacked qualities ordinarily deemed indispensable to success.

He was not a scholarly man, nor a student in the ordinary sense. At the age of 2 years he came to Jackson County, Iowa, with his parents in 1846, which was then the frontier, and his education was limited to a few terms in a log schoolhouse. His training and experience as a business man enabled him to comprehend accurately and appreciate fully every problem that confronted him. He did not pretend to have the powers of the college bred; he belonged to an altogether different class of men. Although a pleasant and agreeable speaker, capable of presenting his views in a logical manner, he made no attempt at oratory and did not seek to mold audiences by the persuasive powers of eloquence. In Congress he directed his energy in an effort to obtain relief from extortion practiced by the eastern manufacturer on the western farmer. He was only in Congress 14 days when he engaged in a spirited debate for the reduction of the cost of wire fence. Being a new Member, an effort was made to ignore him, but his keen sense of what was right spurred him on until he won his point and secured him recognition that proved much to his advantage through the entire session. He was also very successful in securing increased pensions for old soldiers, and at the close of the session the Record showed that he had more special pensions allowed than any other Member of Congress, and had the honor of being the only Member who added an amendment to the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill. He abhorred unfairness; nothing could swerve him from the course that his sense of justice and right marked out for him. It was this splendid side of his character that so endeared him to his fellow men, regardless of political affiliations, and enshrined him in their affections.

The world is better because he lived. So exalted was his character, so noble and unselfish were his ambitions, that life gave him up reluctantly, and death was proud to take him. But death can not take from us the memory of what he was and what he did. Men come and go; he alone lives in the hearts of his countrymen who truly loves and serves his brother man. Though dead, this immortality, this endless life of human heart and history, is the supreme, the sovereign reward of JAMES P. LATTA.

ADDRESS OF MR. STEPHENS, OF NEBRASKA

FUNERAL OF THE LATE CONGRESSMAN LATTA

The following report of Congressman LATTA's funeral is reproduced from the Omaha Daily World-Herald, of September 16, 1911, whose special reporter was present at the obsequies:

By the rugged rock of granite that marks the family burial lot on the highest point of Tekamah Cemetery the body of Congressman JAMES P. LATTA was buried this afternoon—a place typical of the rugged character which had chosen the place in years gone by.

It was after a funeral service such as Tekamah has never known before, because Congressman LATTA belonged not alone to Tekamah, but to all Nebraska, and from far and near his old friends came with sorrowing hearts. The early train from the south brought many; two coaches attached to an early afternoon freight from the north brought large delegations from Bancroft, Lyons, Oakland, and other points; by automobile and carriage they arrived by the hundred.

The funeral service was at the Latta home, where, on the large lawn were arranged hundreds of seats and where those for whom seats had not been reserved remained standing while Canon Marsh, of Blair, said the Episcopal service. A quartet composed of Miss Irene Sutherland, Mrs. Neil Cameron, Ralph D. Conkling, and N. W. Preston, the private secretary of Mr. LATTA, sang sweetly, "Softly the Day Fades," "In the Hour of Trial," "Abide With Me," with Miss Adelaide Thomas at the piano.

The body had rested in the parlor of the old home during the day, surrounded by a wondrous gift of flowers and guarded by Knights Templar in uniform, while thousands passed by to view for the last time the face of their beloved old friend. As the hour approached for the funeral service the casket was borne to the lawn, where the deceased Congressman had passed many happy hours with his family and friends, now meeting again to weep where once all had been joy and laughter.

After the service was taken up the long march over the hills to the cemetery, located on the crest of one of them. The Masonic fraternity at this moment took charge of the services, Tekamah Lodge, No. 31, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, of

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES: REPRESENTATIVE LATTA

which Mr. LATTA had been a member for 32 years, of which he had been master for two terms and of which he had been treasurer for many years up to the time of his death, Fred Wixer now being master. Jordan Commandery of Knights Templar, of Blair, of which Mr. LATTA was past eminent commander, and of which all the Knights Templar are members, was the escort. The active pallbearers were: T. A. Minier and Oscar Samson, of Oakland; C. A. Darling, of Lyons; E. A. Hansen, of Decatur; John Harrington, of Wayne; E. C. Houston, C. Jeep, and L. D. Phipps, of Tekamah. The honorary pallbearers were Col. Wellington Harrington, J. R. Sutherland, R. A. Templeton, sr., and S. T. Story, of Tekamah; Dr. J. B. Whittier, Decatur; Dan V. Stephens, Fremont; Charles P. Mathewson, Walthill; James Parry, Jackson; Watson Tyson, Blair; J. B. Garland and H. A. Garland, who were boyhood friends of the late Congressman, from Jackson County, Iowa. Col. John P. Cameron was marshal.

The order of march consisted of Jordan Commandery of Knights Templar; Tekamah Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; the hearse and pallbearers; relatives and friends in carriages; relatives and friends in automobiles.

At the cemetery the Masonic burial ritual was observed with all of the pathos and impressiveness and tender sentiment possible. Robert E. French, grand custodian of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, was in charge of the ceremonials committing the body to earth.

Official recognition of the dead Congressman was given by the presence of the entire congressional delegation of Nebraska, consisting of Congressmen C. O. Lobeck, of Omaha; John A. Maguire, of Lincoln; Charles H. Sloan, of Geneva; Moses P. Kinkaid, of O'Neill; and George W. Norris, of McCook; and Philip P. Campbell, of Pittsburg, Kans.; and I. D. Young, of Beloit, Kans., appointed members of the House committee by Speaker Clark; and by the presence of Nebraska's two United States Senators, Norris Brown and G. M. Hitchcock.

Other men prominent in public life present were: Acting Gov. John H. Moorehead, of Falls City; Speaker John Kuhl, of Randolph; Senator George W. Wiltse, of Randolph; Willis D. Reed, of Madison; Senator Fred Volpp, of Scribner; Dan V. Stephens, of Fremont; Judge W. L. Stark, of Aurora; Gen. John C. Cowin, William Wallace, B. H. Robison, Robert Robison, Herman Peters, and Thomas J. Nolen, all of Omaha; Rev. John F. Poucher, of Stanton;

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Editors Don C. Van Dusen and Thomas Osterman, and Judge Clark O'Hanlon, of Blair; Senator Philip H. Kohl, of Wayne; Col. John A. Ehrhart, of Stanton; Col. J. C. Elliott and P. Moodie, of West Point; C. E. Bardwell, of Lincoln; Judge Walton and Charles Selleck, of Blair; besides many other friends from over the county and State.

The relatives and intimate family friends from abroad were: Mr. and Mrs. John Harrington, Mr. Chris Astor, and Mr. and Mrs. Dan Harrington, of Wayne; Miss Margaret Latta, Mrs. Ryan, and Miss Powell, of Omaha; Ed Callery and P. T. Flynn, sons-in-law of the late John Latta, of Duncomb, Iowa; J. B. and H. A. Garland, of Cranston, Iowa; Mrs. Bectol and Mrs. Goza, of Tama, Iowa; Dr. N. P. Hansen, of Elk Creek, Nebr.

Among the elegant gifts of flowers was a huge shield done in colors, the offering of the United States Congress, besides lodge offerings and many from friends near and far.

It was just such a funeral in just such a place as would pull the hardest on the heartstrings of the members of the family who are left to mourn, as it would bring more vividly to memory the tender moments that had been spent on the same spot with the deceased in his life. Yet there was something about it—the deep shade of the trees, the songs of the birds, the music selected for the occasion, the words of the minister, the sorrowing friends, the solemnity of the scene—that seemed to designate it as the funeral of the deceased and made to be just the kind of a funeral he himself would have desired had he been able to plan it for himself.

Those of the immediate family who survive him are: His wife and two sons, Ed and Bur; a sister, Miss Louise Latta; and a brother, George C. Latta; also a cousin, W. W. Latta, who has during all these years been as a brother, so close have been their associations.

ADDRESS OF MR. COLLIER, OF MISSISSIPPI

MR. SPEAKER: It was my good fortune to become intimately acquainted with Mr. JAMES P. LATTA. We entered Congress at the same time, and for nearly two years we lived at the same hotel. Notwithstanding the difference in our ages, a warm and lasting friendship sprang up between us. Living under the same roof, seeing him nearly every day, I had an opportunity to know his worth and appreciate his merits.

MR. LATTA was a self-made man. He many times recounted to me the hardships and trials of his early life. When a mere boy, he followed the star of empire westward and, unaided and alone, "exactd from the grasp of reluctant fortune" that success which characterized all his efforts.

Prudent, resourceful, painstaking, and honest, it did not take Mr. LATTA long to acquire what men call a competency. He was not a brilliant man, nor a great orator, but he was rich in that great gift which, for want of a better name, is called common sense. When some question would arise in the House affecting the interest of the people of his district or that of the people of the entire country, I have seen Mr. LATTA rise in his seat, and in earnest tones, and with eloquence born of the justness of the cause he was advocating, become convincing, forceful, logical, and persuasive.

He was at all times armed with the courage of his convictions. His pioneer training gave him that self-confidence with which he met and vanquished the difficulties which so often confronted him.

His fearless nature, his rugged honesty, his independent spirit, his plain matter-of-fact manner, his industrious habits, his cordial greeting, his genial disposition, his innate modesty, his sterling worth, and true merit were recognized by all who knew him, and the possession of these qualities not alone endeared him to his friends, but gained for him an enviable position in the House of Representatives.

Faithful, conscientious, true to himself and his friends, in the fullness of his strength he accomplished his daily tasks and performed well his work in this busy world of ours.

He left behind him as a heritage to his family an "honest name, the memory of earnest deeds well done."

Death had no terrors for JAMES LATTA. He was firm in that faith which is founded upon the Rock of Ages. He believed with the poet who said that—

Death is but an angel, who to man at last his freedom brings;
And the grave is but a nest in which the soul shall find its wings.

JAMES P. LATTA fought a good fight; he kept the faith; he was affectionate to his family; he was true to his friends; he was devoted to his country; he was faithful to his party and conscientious in his convictions.

His colleagues sincerely mourn his death, and though these historic Halls will echo no more with the sound of his voice, and his pleasant smile, his cordial greeting, and his hearty handclasp have gone forever, yet he is not forgotten.

Death is a mystery which all the intellectual forces of mankind have vainly endeavored to solve.

The lips of the young inquiring "whence" and the old asking "whither" are alike unanswered.

Why some are called in the early morning of youth and some fall asleep in the evening of their days we know not; we can but wonder.

When childhood, tender childhood, meets the dread messenger, though our hearts may be torn with grief, yet we are comforted by the thought that, safe from life's trials and temptations and hardships, ignorant even of the knowledge of evil, the little ones sleep secure in the Master's arms. When death halts the faltering steps of old age, we draw some comfort from the knowledge that threescore years and ten is the allotment for usefulness here on earth. But when the bitter stroke descends unexpected, unannounced, upon vigorous manhood, we stand appalled, our hearts are troubled, and we wonder why this should be. But in this hour of doubt and trouble and grief there comes to comfort the aching heart "the divine assurance that He doeth all things well."

For 'tis idle to talk of the future, the sad might have been mid
our tears.

God knew all about it, yet took him away from the oncoming
years.

God knows all about those that love Him; how bitter this parling
must be.

And yet through it all God is loving and knows so much better
than we.

ADDRESS OF MR. RAINEY, OF ILLINOIS

MR. SPEAKER: We have assembled here to-day to do honor to one who in all the affairs of life in which he participated discharged his full duty as a public servant and as an honest man. JAMES P. LATTA was born 68 years ago on a farm near Ashland, Ohio. He came from a race of sturdy pioneers. He belonged to that class of our citizens which pushed sturdily forward ahead of the march of civilization, which for a hundred years came down our rivers in flatboats and through our long forest avenues in oxcarts, pushing always forward toward the undeveloped sections of the great West. While he was yet a child, his parents yielded again to the call of the West, and in the old, primitive way which characterized the westward march of the early settlers, moved across the States of Indiana and Illinois, then being rapidly settled up, across the great river which flows through the center of the country, and found a home on its western bank in the State of Iowa. They were among the very earliest pioneers in that section of the country.

Here young LATTA grew to manhood, working on a farm during the spring and summer and fall—and farm work in those days was the hardest kind of toil—acquiring in the winter time, in a district school, the rudiments of the education which he afterwards developed in the hard school of practical everyday life. When he attained the age of 19 years, the call of the West came again to him. The section of Iowa in which he lived had rapidly settled up. He started out on foot and traveled alone across the great State, having in view, as he often told me himself, but one definite object—the finding of a new

country with fertile soil and those natural advantages which could be developed by the population he felt sure would settle there.

An old friend of his in a Mississippi River town had given him this advice:

If you ever go farther west, travel until you reach a river and then settle on its western bank. The most important towns and cities in the interior of the country along the rivers which flow south are on the western banks of those rivers, and the most valuable land is there.

With this advice to guide him, before he attained his majority, with no money in his pockets, with no capital except his own buoyant spirits, his own hopeful disposition, his splendid, vigorous health, and his hard common sense, he started on his long march toward the West, until finally he reached the Missouri River; and, following the advice of his old friend, he crossed the river, and on the other side, in the Territory of Nebraska, he made his home.

He took up a homestead and commenced to develop it. Seven years later he married an Iowa girl, who stood by his side during the years that followed, fighting with him the hard battle of life on a Nebraska farm. Prosperity came to them as the years passed. He acquired more and more land; the land he acquired increased in value under his skillful methods of development, until finally, at the time of his death, he had accumulated for himself and his wife and his children a comfortable fortune. He organized the First National Bank of Tekamah, now one of the strong financial institutions of that section of Nebraska. He represented his district in the State legislature and in the State senate, and was finally elected to Congress.

He journeyed toward the West across the State of Iowa ahead of the railroads. He lived long enough to see the

Territory in which he settled grow into one of our greatest States. He saw the section which he selected as his home develop until on every hand there were cultivated farms, thriving villages, towns, and cities, and a happy, cultured, prosperous, contented population.

He discharged his full duty in all the walks of life—loved by his family and the citizens of the community in which he lived, respected by all who lived within his adopted State. I knew him during the entire period of his service in Congress. Early in our acquaintance I learned to admire his rugged honesty and his keen perception of the duties of the high office he filled so well. I knew him better than most Members of Congress, and I profited many times by his judgment in important matters of legislation.

He belonged to that type of men who have made this Nation great. He served courageously, honorably, and honestly the people of his State. He was a good citizen, a faithful, honest public servant, a kind husband and father, a true friend. He discharged with honor to himself and his family and neighbors and friends all the duties imposed upon him in the many years of his active, useful life. He possessed the confidence of men; he never betrayed those who believed in him. He was my friend; I desire to add my tribute to his memory.

ADDRESS OF MR. SHARP, OF OHIO.

MR. SPEAKER: During the past four years, which measure the length of my service in this honorable body, the hand of death has visited with unusual frequency its membership. In looking over the personnel of those who have been taken from among us we have been made painfully aware of the fact that those whose services to their country in these legislative halls could be least spared, and whose association with their colleagues has been most helpful, have been conspicuous. Though on account of the brevity of his service he was not so prominent as some of those whose deaths we have come to mourn, yet JAMES P. LATTA, even in the brief period of his membership in this House, not only endeared himself to his associates but left upon them his impress as a man of sterling worth and unusually good judgment. Assiduous and conscientious in the discharge of his duties, he reflected the highest credit upon his constituency.

Early attracted to him by his genial manner, I had an added interest in his career from the fact that he was born in Ashland County, Ohio, which forms a part of the district which I have the honor to represent. While the element of environment has necessarily an important influence upon the career of all men, yet to that of heredity must still be credited the greatest force in giving vent to and shaping that career. I think this must have been essentially true of the one whose death we mourn to-day, for the Lattas of Ashland County, and the branches of that family tree, were people of sterling worth and character. The stock from which he descended was, I take it, typically representative of the so-called Pennsyl-

vania Dutch families who have contributed so much to the prosperity and good name of that splendid county. Though he moved, with his parents, to the West early in life, yet it is easy to imagine that the sturdy characteristics of such people well fitted him for the hardy undertakings which confronted the western settler of 60 years ago. Indeed, we could hardly expect any other result from the life work of such a man than the achievements which were his and which were so signally recognized by the people among whom he lived.

While it is difficult, in a comparative sense, to measure the value of the work of Members of this House, yet there can be no such thing as relativity in those traits which make for integrity of character and personal honor. It is a wise dispensation of Providence which endows men with different abilities and varied attributes. The varieties of the fields of usefulness could hardly take a wider range than is exemplified by the services of the Members of this House, and perhaps in no other assembly of men is the value of such service more accurately gauged than by its membership. To some are given that power of fluency of speech sufficient to exert a potent influence in shaping important measures which come up for discussion upon the floor of the House. With the keenest logic and most forceful rhetoric, fallacious theories are exposed, while to others to whom such endowments have been denied are left the more plodding but not less useful work of framing the essentials of legislative work in the committees. It is in this latter field that our late friend and associate must have been of much practical service, for his experience in agricultural pursuits and wide acquaintance in that work which still has to do with the consideration and treatment of the rights of our Indian population was intimate and accurate.

There is another phase to be considered in connection with men in public life beyond that of mere capacity for usefulness. Is it too much to say that fundamentally in the appreciation of a Member's work lies that element of genuineness of character and integrity of conduct? Judged by this criterion, our friend who has gone before, whose death we mourn and in whose praise we speak to-day, stood very high in the estimation of his colleagues. With him, even in this day, when party ties bind so lightly and partisanship is almost a thing of the past, his attitude upon all public questions was singularly free from bias and prejudice. His was truly a high conception of the duties of his office. The membership of this House never had a more faithful coworker nor American citizenship a higher standard of fidelity to its best interest. Though it was not vouchsafed to him to occupy a conspicuous place in our country's affairs—for he was rather a private in the ranks of duty—yet in all the essentials that constitute the warp and woof of manhood's structure none possessed them in a higher degree. Truly, in his death not only the people of Nebraska have lost a faithful Representative, but his colleagues a kindly friend.

ADDRESS OF MR. KOPP, OF WISCONSIN

MR. SPEAKER: JAMES P. LATTA, in whose memory we have assembled to-day, was born in Ohio in 1811. Ohio at that time was of the older civilization. When but a child of 2 years his parents moved to Iowa and became pioneers in that Territory. As the settlers increased and the land went under the dominion of man's labor the spirit of the pioneer moved JAMES P. LATTA, then a boy of 18, to again turn his face toward the setting sun. It was during the dark days of the great War between the States, when the land was stirred with civil strife. With indomitable courage and a determined perseverance this boy started for the Territory of Nebraska, walking the entire distance. The pioneer will always do his part when he has nature's heritage—

Stout muscles and a sinewy heart,
A hardy frame and a hardier spirit;
King of his two hands, he does his part
In every useful toil and art.

The spirit of the pioneer has been the motive power of our civilization. It seems to have been an instinct in the Caucasian race. We know not what developed it in the centuries past, but we do know that it led our people from their original home in Asia across mountains and sea, over river and plain, ever and ever to the westward. Meeting every obstacle, enduring every hardship, overcoming every impediment, it reached our Atlantic seaboard; from thence, with renewed determination, it again moved to the westward; heeding not the war cry of the savage, the stealth of the wild beasts, nor the hardships of nature, it went on and on to the rolling Pacific, leaving in its wake

fertile plains, beautiful cities, and happy homes. The pioneer sowed the seed. Those of us who are so fortunate as to live in this century are reaping the harvest. In the State of Nebraska JAMES P. LATTA was a pioneer.

Here he lived and here he died; here he married and reared his family; here he received the bountiful return of nature for his hard labor and accumulated a competency; here he received the plaudits of his neighbors and was repeatedly honored by them in being sent to both houses of the State legislature and the Sixty-first and Sixty-second Congresses. This tells the general story of his span of life.

One of the greatest blessings of our system of government is that an open door and a free field is constantly before all our sons and daughters. The humblest, the lowest, may ascend to the highest field of usefulness and success. The poorest boy with a clear conscience, a rugged body, a vigorous mind, and a stout heart has no limitations. Merit—intrinsic merit—is what finally prevails. Mr. LATTA possessed these qualities of heart, of soul, and of mind. He made a success of everything he undertook, because to him failure was unknown. In his lexicon there was no such word as “can’t.”

It was my good fortune on coming to Washington at the opening of the Sixty-first Congress to be thrown in close touch with JAMES P. LATTA and his devoted wife. While he was my senior by many years, we became close friends. I grew to love him as a father, and when I learned that the angel of death had summoned him it seemed as though one of close kin had been taken away. Death is always an unwelcome guest, and to JAMES P. LATTA an unannounced one. Strong and vigorous of stature, it was little dreamed by those who knew him best that a dreaded malady had fastened upon him its poisonous fangs. He was hurried to the greatest hospital in the world, but

there told that life was his but a few weeks longer. With that fortitude which had characterized the every act of his life he prepared for his departure to the unknown world from whose bourn no traveler returns. He had lived his life well; he had performed every duty to the best of his ability and went to the future with no dread, save that dread of parting from those who were near and dear to him.

Our congressional life has many joys and pleasures, many sorrows and vicissitudes. Most that we say here will never be heeded; much that we do here will soon be forgotten; but one thing will never—no, never—perish—sweet friendship, the most delightful relationship of life, will remain like the evergreen and leave us only when body and soul are parted. JAMES P. LATTA has gone, but the memories of his friendship will be with us forever.

Farewell: A word that has been and must be
A word that makes us linger—yet—farewell.

ADDRESS OF MR. FOSTER, OF ILLINOIS

MR. SPEAKER: I am honored by being able to say something of the life and character of Hon. JAMES P. LATTA, formerly a Member of this House.

On Mr. LATTA's entrance into Congress it was my fortune to become acquainted with him immediately, and I lived in the same house with him during his entire service in the House of Representatives.

Mr. LATTA was of that pioneer, rugged stock that knew what it was to fight for what you get in life. He was deprived of an education, except what he could secure at the public schools of that early time. His education, though, was the learning of good common sense, honesty, industry, and integrity.

When a young man, scarcely 19 years of age, he left his home in Iowa and all that was dear to him then, and started across the country afoot, traveling several hundred miles, settling in the Territory of Nebraska, there to seek his fortune and make his way in the world.

We who have not had that experience little realize what it means to go out into a new country and make a home. I have always felt that those who go into the wilderness, go into a new country, and blaze the way, deserve great credit. It is an easier thing to follow the trail after it has been blazed than it is to start out and make the trail. Mr. LATTA, having industry, integrity, and character and force of determination to win, did win in his new home and became one of the prominent citizens of that great State. He was honored by the people of his State by being elected to the lower house of the legislature, and on his election to Congress he was then a

member of the State senate of Nebraska. In these positions he showed his worth as a man. He stood for the right of the people; he knew what it was to struggle. He knew what it was to be poor, and when he became independent, so far as this world's goods are concerned, he did not forget those less fortunate, and his sympathy was always with them.

As a Member of this House he discharged his duties with great credit, which was reflected upon his district, upon the State, and upon the Nation. He took an interest in public affairs and was always at his post of duty, ready to discharge whatever duties might be necessary to be performed as a Member of this House. I feel that the Nation has been honored by the election of such a man as JAMES P. LATTA to Congress. It is to be regretted that he did not live long enough to serve his term and pass to higher honors in the State and the Nation, where he might be of even greater service to the people.

His domestic life was of the happiest. He was a devoted husband and father and took great delight in the company of his family, and he was happy when he was with them. He always tried to make the life of his devoted wife one of pleasure, and she was his constant companion.

And so, my friends, we can offer but little comfort to the sorrowing family in the loss of this dear man, but we can offer them the hope that when they look above and beyond this life they will some day meet the husband and the father there; because we read in the Good Book that it is said, "I will go and prepare a place for you," and I believe that JAMES P. LATTA's spirit rests with his Maker above, and that when his spirit ascended on high was received, it was said, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of the Lord."

ADDRESS OF MR. CULLOP, OF INDIANA

MR. SPEAKER: The frequency of such occasions as has called this House together to-day admonishes us of the uncertainty of life and the irrevocable fate of all humanity. Travel as man may and the same fate is his ultimate destiny, from which there is no rescue.

JAMES P. LATTA, whose memory we have convened to honor, has traveled the great highway of life from one terminal to the other, and entered into the enjoyment of his well-earned reward. His was an unusual life, full of the experiences which few men have enjoyed. Twice a pioneer on the western frontier, he bore witness to the marvelous development which has transpired in the last half century in a great and growing section of our country.

Born in the State of Ohio, at the age of 3 years his parents moved with him to the far distant Iowa, then the western limit of civilization, and there began the life of a pioneer. He was reared among the hazards and dangers of frontier life until he was about 20 years of age, when he resolved to move westward and become a pioneer on his own responsibility. Not a single mile of railroad or telegraph had been built west of the Missouri River, and the prairie schooner and stagecoach on the old National Trail were the only means of transportation which invaded that boundless territory, with its inexhaustible resources, awaiting the advent of a civilized people to open nature's great storehouses.

Before he had attained his majority, armed with dauntless courage, supported by stalwart manhood and a fixed determination, he started for the frontier in northern Nebraska to found a home and carve out a fortune for

himself. He had been educated in the great school of human experience, with limited facilities to cultivate his mind and but few opportunities to apply the fragmentary rudiments of the meager education afforded the old settlers. For 200 miles he penetrated the West on foot, seeking the place of his future home, where he lived until he died. He was one of the first settlers who carried the flickering lamp of civilization into that land where the painted and plumed barbarian held undisputed sway, that its feeble rays might radiate over the expansive prairies and announce the beginning of a new era. He built his home with the hostile Indians as his only neighbor, where the moan of the buffalo, the howl of the wolf, and the scream of the eagle alone broke the silent vigils of the long weary nights.

His pioneer cabin was home, and around it the winds which swept the broad untamed prairies sang requiems to break the monotony of slowly speeding time. But time worked its weary way, and the civilization, of which he was the advance guard, came trooping along in its westward march, and the uncivilized red man reluctantly, like the Arab, folded his tent and moved along toward the setting sun. As the processes of a never-ceasing evolution unfolded its progress before him for review, he saw the Indian villages disappear, and towns and cities—hives of human industry and thrift—erected on their ruins; he saw the wigwam decay and the home of the sturdy settler take its place; the schoolhouse and the church builded for the diffusion of knowledge and civilization, and the arts of peace supplant the habits and customs of barbarism. He saw the great prairies over which herds of wild beasts had fed and roamed reduced to cultivation and produce beyond the sanguine expectations of the most optimistic; he saw the dry and parched desert drink of the living waters of the streams flowing

along their borders and become rich and fertile lands, teeming with products to supply the wants of the people at home, and furnish a surplus to swell the markets in distant sections and aid the ever-growing commerce of a mighty people in the greatest country on the globe.

All these occurred within his time, passed under his review like a panorama, and in their marvelous growth he had been a potent factor, and in the important part he had played in this wonderful transformation, this great and good work, his people recognized his merit, his real worth, and confided greater responsibilities to him. They elected him to represent them in their State legislature, where he acquitted himself so satisfactorily that they chose him to represent them in the State senate, and for his faithful attention and splendid work they called him twice to serve them in the United States Congress, which he was doing when his untimely end came. In every public capacity he was the same true and faithful public servant and never betrayed their confidence or forfeited their esteem.

His experience, covering the many stations he had occupied from a pioneer homesteader to the position of a man of wealth and influence and high public position, enabled him to understand the various wants of the people engaged in various vocations, and his sturdy character and unflinching integrity made him a positive force in advocating the cause of his constituency, which he ably and faithfully did as a Member of this body.

The pioneer is rapidly passing from among us; soon, ah, much too soon, we will know him no more. Their places will not be easily filled. They were heroes whose virtues should be extolled. Their contribution to civilization, to the country's progress, deserves particular attention, and their characters, standing out boldly among the

most useful the country has produced, should be impressed upon posterity as great, good, and patriotic. But few, if any, can excel them; their work speaks for itself, and we are forcibly reminded of their wise endeavors in every institution in our common country as the product of their handiwork.

Their work, unaided by example or experience from which they could pattern, dedicated to the foundation of a new civilization, the organization of society, and the creation of a new Government, called for the exercise of the best faculties of the head and heart, and the truest wisdom with which man could be endowed, the highest order of integrity and patriotism the world could furnish, in order that what they created might meet the requirements of succeeding ages and measure up to the responsibilities which the future would demand of them. Imbued with this great responsibility, penetrating the darkness in which the future was veiled, estimating with almost mathematical certainty the marvelous progress which would follow their endeavor, they accomplished their work with such wonderful accuracy, with such unselfish patriotism and untiring devotion to public welfare, that it has adequately performed every purpose to which it was dedicated, and as time unfolds the secrets hidden from view, their wisdom and capacity is the more firmly established and revealed.

We venerate the names of our military heroes and great statesmen by the erection of monuments and statues to show our appreciation of their great services to their country; we signalize their achievements in story and song; we glorify their virtues by emulating their examples, but we have failed to pay the proper amount of attention, I fear, to the sturdy characters of our pioneers, who, amid the dangers and hardships formed settlements,

established civilization, and founded social government among hostile foes and conquered the enemies of progress.

To them the country's posterity for all time owes a debt of gratitude which it can never pay. The sturdy pioneer performed a work which redounds to his glory, erected for himself a monument in the hearts of the people which will endure long after monuments of marble and statues of brass have crumbled to dust and have perished from the minds of men. His work was dedicated to the uplift of humanity, and an appreciative posterity will regard it as the greatest heritage ever bequeathed to the human race. Time will not diminish its importance, the people can not underestimate its value, and the future will keep secure their fame and revere their precious memories. In the demise of our lamented colleague a pioneer has fallen and the country suffers because of his removal, but his example is left as a precious legacy to his family and friends. "Peace to his ashes."

ADDRESS OF MR. STEPHENS, OF TEXAS

MR. SPEAKER: The Members of this House are once more called upon to mourn the loss of one of its most useful Members—Hon. JAMES P. LATTA, of Tekamah, Nebr.—near the close of the Sixty-first Congress. He represented the third congressional district of Nebraska, having received 26,832 votes to 24,865 cast for his Republican opponent, Hon. John F. Boyd, in a district that had for many years been a strong Republican district. Mr. LATTA was a member of the State senate at the time of his election to this House. Who has not observed the wonderful, although undefinable, power some men possess over their fellows? Is it personal magnetism or electricity, or is it to be found in what we sometimes hear called electrobiology or mesmerism? Is it the mysterious force of the human will? Is it a secret or unknown power which the human mind can not understand? Whatever it may be, this power was possessed by Congressman LATTA in a remarkable degree. He drew men to him by his earnest, direct, and convincing manner. It has been truthfully said that an honest man is the noblest work of God. The honesty and integrity of Mr. LATTA were unquestioned, and impressed themselves on the voters of his district and his associates in this House in so convincing a manner that they regarded him as one of God's noblemen. And for this reason we who knew him best as a Member of this House reverence his memory the most. Mr. LATTA was a good father, husband, friend, and legislator, and always so impressed himself on his associates. I served on the same committee—the Committee on Indian Affairs—with him, and he was my close

personal friend and party associate, and there was no man on the committee for whom I had a higher personal regard. He possessed a remarkably clear judgment on all business affairs, having been a very successful man himself. He very readily grasped the many business matters coming before our committee relating to Indian affairs. He was regarded as one of the safest and best legislators on the committee.

Mr. LATTA was born near Ashland, Ohio, and when 2 years old his father removed to eastern Iowa, being one of the earliest pioneers of that country. His father was a farmer, and young LATTA worked on the farm during crop seasons, and attended school during the winter months, where he acquired his limited education. In 1863, at the age of 19 years, he emigrated to Nebraska, where he lived at the time of his death. He walked several hundred miles in making this change of residence. There were no railroads in this country at that time, and Nebraska was then a Territory. Mr. LATTA was a pioneer and an original homesteader of Nebraska, and grew up and prospered with his State. Mr. LATTA is the only Congressman I ever knew who moved to strike from a bill under consideration in the House an appropriation of money to be expended in his State. Yet this is exactly what he did on February 1, 1910. Page 1345 of the Congressional Record shows that the Clerk read the following clause in the Agriculture appropriation bill:

Nebraska National Forest Reserve, \$18,250.

Mr. LATTA rose and said:

Mr. Chairman, I move to strike out the last word. I have listened yesterday and to-day to this discussion about the appropriations for these national forest reserves. In my State of Nebraska you appropriate \$18,000 for the maintenance of a national reserve. You can buy all the timber on that reserve for less than \$5,000. You can not propagate timber there, because

ADDRESS OF MR. STEPHENS, OF TEXAS

the reserve is leased to sheepmen, and the sheep eat off every bush that grows. I agree with the gentleman from Wyoming [Mr. Mondell] that these appropriations seem extravagant, unreasonable, and uncalled for. We commenced in 1901 with an appropriation of \$90,000. In nine years we have increased it to \$5,000,000. Now, what have we got for it? Are we making parks or pleasure reserves, or are we trying to propagate and increase the growth of timber? If we are trying to increase the growth of timber, we are also leasing these reserves to men who are grazing sheep, goats, and cattle and horses on them, and thereby destroying every small tree and bush. Now, the two things do not work together. It is unwarranted extravagance and misjudgment, in my opinion. I am not criticizing the members of this committee, but are the people getting value received for the money expended? It looks to me as though they are not.

Mr. LATTA then offered an amendment to strike out this Nebraska appropriation, but his amendment was defeated by other Members of Congress from Nebraska. But this incident shows the self-denial and honesty of purpose of our deceased friend. Refusing this needless, in my judgment, appropriation of public funds places Mr. LATTA in a class by himself.

Mr. LATTA did not believe in landlordism and was opposed to large landed estates, and believed that some equitable means should be devised of dividing them up into small holdings, so that the tenants on large farms and ranches and Indian and other land reservations could become the owners of small tracts by making small annual payments therefor. He said that he would be glad to divide up his own large farm and ranch property in the same way, and that he had often advanced money to young tenants on his ranches to pay for their land on the annual installment plan. The members of our committee valued very highly the advice given us by this excellent business man and kind-hearted philanthropist

in regard to the best disposition of the large Indian landed estates of the West.

Mr. LATTA was born, lived, and died on the outskirts of American civilization, where he helped to settle and civilize one of the best States in the Union. All honor to this old sturdy pioneer, statesman, loving husband, kind and indulgent father, safe adviser, and faithful friend. This fast-fading school of old pioneers may well be described as—

Tall and strong, and swift of foot were they,
Beyond the dwarfing city's pale abortions;
Because their thoughts had never been the prey
Of care or gain; the green woods were their portions.
No sinking spirits told them they grew gray;
No fashion made them apes of her distortions.
Simple they were, not savage; and their rifles,
Though very true, were not yet used for trifles.

Motion was in their days, rest in their slumbers,
And cheerfulness the handmaid of their toil;
Nor yet too many nor too few their numbers,
Corruption could not make their hearts her soil.
The lust which stings, the splendor which encumbers,
With the free foresters divide no spoil.
Serene nor sullen were the solitudes
Of this unsighing people of the West.

ADDRESS OF MR. MAGUIRE, OF NEBRASKA

MR. SPEAKER: We have laid aside the usual routine of public business and assemble here this afternoon to pay a brief tribute to the life and services of a late Member and our lamented colleague, HON. JAMES P. LATTA.

He was born near Ashland, Ohio, October 31, 1844, and when a child of but 2 years of age he moved with his parents to the eastern part of the Territory of Iowa. He grew to manhood with much the same training and surroundings as other boys of his time—working on his father's farm and attending district school during the winter months. In 1863, before overland railroads were constructed, he traveled across Iowa and into Nebraska Territory, where he located on a Government homestead in Burt County, near the Missouri River and close to the present town of Tekamah. He lived on this farm, which has been enlarged to 3,000 acres, and in the town of Tekamah till his death on September 11, 1911. A few weeks before his death he sought relief for stomach trouble and underwent an operation, from which he never recovered. He leaves in his immediate family a widow and two sons to mourn his loss.

While we are eulogizing the memory of Mr. LATTA here in this House more particularly from the point of view of his public service, still I can not fail to recall the more realistic and vivid story of his life as told by his friends and neighbors at his home on the day of his funeral, which I attended as one of the official congressional party. The people had gathered there not only from among his neighbors and fellow townsmen, but also from many parts of the State to pay their respects to a departed friend.

Each one in that gathering felt a personal loss in Mr. LATTA's death. The simple but eloquent story of his everyday life was in the minds and upon the lips of the thousands of those who knew almost his every deed and act and thought. To them his life was an open book, and in it they prided themselves in having a part. Friends vied with each other in relating his many acts of charity, kindness, and early sacrifice. The people of his district had implicit confidence in his honesty, his industry, and his ability. To travel with him over his large district seemed like going through his own neighborhood, where each one had a personal interest in his welfare and all knew him as "Uncle JIM LATTA."

Mr. LATTA was a man of simple tastes and democratic in manner and sympathy. Because of his companionable disposition, large experience, and good judgment it was indeed a pleasure and a profit to accept his hospitality. Entering Congress at the same time and living at the same hotel, I found it a privilege to have the advantage of his association. Although a man of strong convictions, still he was tolerant and charitable in thought and accorded to others the right to follow their own standards of right living. His long experience gave him a keen insight into the problems and trials which multiply around the average man. When there was conflict of ideas among men he saw and understood how honest differences of opinion might arise among many minds and diversity of environment. He did not fail to take the larger view of life. He was an optimist and had unfaltering faith in the future. Courage and hope rather than fear and despair characterized his attitude toward life. Integrity of word and action made him understood by all, and you always knew what he meant by what he said. Physically he was large, strong, and rugged, and conserved to the last his energies. Temperate in all his per-

sonal conduct and habits, he was able, therefore, to lead an active and strenuous life to the very close. While he directed most of his efforts to the building up and development of the new country and to the care of his increasing properties, still he had been the recipient, more particularly in later years, of many public honors, which he modestly accepted. In 1887 he represented his district in the lower house of the Nebraska State Legislature and in 1907 was a member of the State senate. In 1908 he was elected as a Democrat from the third Nebraska district to the Sixty-first Congress and was reelected to the Sixty-second Congress. Where he played the larger part, I believe, was as a pioneer and Nation builder. He was contemporaneous with the last and greatest epoch of our history which comprehended our industrial and civic expansion and growing nationality.

The rounded character of the man made it possible for him to become a potential force in our industrial expansion, while his constructive nature helped in the organization of political society. When he reached Nebraska Territory he found the Indian and buffalo in possession, with only a few scattered settlements of white men. Natural obstacles in the new country yielded slowly at first. The blizzards, droughts, grasshopper pests, and hard times made up some of the conditions which tried the courage of men, and many were the pioneers who were compelled to surrender the heroic struggle. But with Mr. LATTA he refused to yield and ultimately reaped a comfortable reward, but not more than he deserved. He was a man who was not satisfied with meeting simple situations, but insisted on overcoming great obstacles. When he had passed from the stage of poverty and hardships he did not forget nor cease to help those who still suffered through misfortune.

He gave freely to those in need and without any assurance or guaranty of return. While he lived his later years in the new surroundings, still he felt the early spirit and sympathized with the old conditions. When he was called into the larger activities of life and the complex problems of expanding business he never forgot the joys and sorrows of his friends and neighbors. While his congressional career was not long, still it was an enduring one of splendid service. He was a constant attendant at his committees and in the House and to all his congressional duties up to the time of his last illness. His large fund of information and practical experience were brought to bear in the examination of every question, and in the material and economic development he spoke with some authority. He held a high conception of the public service and left the impress of his life and character as a contribution to the parliamentary history of his country. He ceased to act and laid down life's activities only when the ministering angel of death approached. When the soul of this man passed to its Creator and the earth closed in upon all that was mortal of JAMES P. LATTA, then ended the career of a Christian soldier, a true man, and an honorable public servant.

ADDRESS OF MR. KINKAID, OF NEBRASKA

MR. SPEAKER: As a Member from the great agricultural State of Nebraska, which sent JAMES P. LATTA to Congress, I desire also to add tribute to his memory. My remarks will not be based upon a long and intimate personal acquaintance. Though I had been a resident of Nebraska for nearly 30 years, I had not actually become personally acquainted with Mr. LATTA until I met him here in Washington as Member elect of the third Nebraska district. But, Mr. Speaker, energetic and enterprising men, who for years have helped to build up and advance their communities, their home towns, counties, and States, become known for their citizenship; they gain a reputation which makes them known farther and wider than it is practicable, even, to one with much travel to extend his acquaintance. A man may do so little as never to be heard of beyond the confines of his small community. On the other hand, he may achieve so much as to become widely and favorably known for his great value as a citizen, by reputation merely, throughout a great country like ours and even beyond the seas. LATTA was so much a part of his part of Nebraska that its history could not be written without making him, among its other strong pioneers, one of the principal factors.

Thus it was that for nearly 30 years before I met him here as a Representative of his district I had known him well by his well-earned reputation as one of the leading men and citizens, not only of his home county, but of the territory which comprises the congressional district he so ably and faithfully represented. We had seldom caught sight of each other in Nebraska from the circum-

stance that we lived on different railway lines which carried us to the metropolis and to the capital of the State and, in a measure, that we were not both Democrats. It was on account of what Mr. LATTA was doing as a business man—a large landowner and farmer, a breeder of pure-bred and high-grade live stock, a leading, active, and popular banker, and a Democratic political factor—that, incidentally, I came to know him by reputation. If prominent farmers and live-stock raisers were being talked of, LATTA was one of them. If popular bankers were the subject, LATTA was sure to receive favorable mention. If a Democratic district or State convention was being discussed, “JIM” LATTA, of Burt, was sure to be taken into the reckoning. So, while I had not really become acquainted with LATTA before his coming here, I knew him as you may know parts of your State or country you have never seen—by learning its geography from a map.

LATTA was so much a part of the business, citizenship, and political geography of his part of the State; he had put himself on the map of northeast Nebraska so conspicuously in its upbuilding that he became, in the county of Burt, in particular, one of its early landmarks, and so he remained during life. LATTA grew as the country grew. Every time a new map had to be made, on account of the development and advancement of his section of the State, such as the formation of new counties and new political divisions, his prominence as a landmark thereon became increased. His progress and development kept pace with that of the new and rapidly developing country which he had chosen as his home. He made good the advice of Greeley, “Go west and grow up with the country.” He helped to develop and advance his section of the State and by so doing developed and advanced himself.

But, Mr. Speaker, it is due mutually to LATTA and north-east Nebraska as a section to observe that his section was not lacking in strong men, successful men—successful in business, prominent as citizens—some who were entitled to be considered as financiers in a great State, others prominent for their citizenship. In fact, the county of Burt, his home, can boast of a number of men who became conspicuous for their ability and achievements in commercial and in public life. The county-seat town of Tekamah, where he made his home for nearly 50 years, produced, noticeably, a number of men who distinguished themselves in official life. As a consequence, the favorable estimate to be placed upon LATTA is increased rather than diminished by the character of his environments. It was necessary that he be found worthy in comparison and in proportion with his surroundings in order that he should become politically honored, and it is to his credit that he was found thus worthy, with the standard of the citizenship of his town and county so high.

Taking a wider view, going away from his home to the other counties of his congressional district, the estimate is legitimately increased by the fact that situated therein are some of the best towns and foremost men of Nebraska, men who, like LATTA, distinguished themselves as business men and financiers and, at the same time, for their high qualities and attainments in the best citizenship—political and official honors included.

Mr. Speaker, observation and reflection have convinced me that two particular qualifications contribute largely to exceptional or extraordinary success. From the practical business standpoint, one possessed with the faculty to perceive opportunities, coupled with the ability to improve them, to turn them to his advantage, such a man becomes a capitalist by the possession of these qualities alone. A scholar who was a world-wide traveler

declared, having the United States particularly in mind, that "America" was another name for "opportunity." The history of our country, its rapid growth in population, in development, and wealth, and its relative standing with the civilized nations of the world, together with the attainments and achievements realized by persons of humble beginnings, abundantly prove the declaration to have been true. Our United States, over all its broad domain, has been a country of unusual opportunities, and the newer and less developed part has all the time afforded, according to the popular idea, the best opportunities for making a start.

The star of empire has all the time moved from the East westward into the new and undeveloped West. Young men have emulated the example set by their pioneer fathers by leaving their old homes and going West to grow up with the country. It would seem likely LATTACH inherited this predilection, his parents having removed from Ohio to eastern Iowa, and this inheritance, Mr. Speaker, proved a rich legacy to LATTACH. He was possessed of a practical turn of mind. To him was given the clear vision to recognize opportunities large and small, and he was possessed of the qualifications to make each his own. In his make-up he was not lacking in confidence; neither was he overconfident. A good, sound judgment secured for him about the right balance. Many men perceive opportunities to be good, but have not the ability or confidence or courage to improve them. Others pass opportunities by for want of the faculty to perceive them. It is the few who both perceive and avail themselves of the advantage of the better or best opportunities. It is easy enough to look backward and see the numerous valuable opportunities we have passed, but this constitutes only observation and experience; thus we see what we have lost or missed. It is the foresight which makes

for success, Mr. Speaker. Hope pictures the future better than the past or present and sees the distant land superior to the home neighborhood. Distance lends enchantment to the imaginative view, and the farther away the more alluring.

Thus with delight we linger to survey
The promised joys of life's unmeasured way.
Thus from afar each dim discovered scene
More pleasing seems than all the past hath been.

YOUNG LATTA might have done well at that period, 1863, to have remained near the parental homestead in eastern Iowa. It is certain that on his journey across the State for the Missouri River he passed through much virgin country, affording opportunities equal to what he found in eastern Nebraska, but the imagination of the son of the pioneer parents brought to him the view of the country west of the Missouri as a promised land, where it appeared to him his success might become equal to that of the most successful within the limits of his hitherto limited observation. At this time—1863—the Missouri River Valley did abound in great opportunities—chances commensurate with the work and worth of industrious and virile men.

New communities were to be established; towns, cities, and a capital and metropolis were to spring up in Nebraska; but the new and fertile farm lands were the infallible investment. They were certain to reach a value tenfold, if not a hundredfold or two hundred fold more than then could be realized. LATTA saw this, and he proceeded to make the most of it. He acquired lands and live stock, and continued to expand in these until he had become one of the leading men of business and wealth in his community. Finally, his surplus of money being adequate, he embarked in a bank. When drought, grasshoppers, and, as a result thereof, depression came, he did

not lose faith, but persevered, maintaining his faith in the future of the country and the people as well. He banked on his faith in the future of the country; one less farsighted, resourceful, courageous, and magnanimous might have viewed it that he even banked his bank on risks taken with his patrons in their financial exigencies; but LATTÄ's never-erring business prescience reassured him and he firmly adhered to it. When the patrons of his bank were confronted with executions and mortgage foreclosure, chattel and real, he did not forsake them, even when their holdings, judged by their selling value at the time, did not warrant the risks which he took.

But LATTÄ looked beyond the exceptional conditions; he reasoned that the country possessed a sure foundation for a prosperous future. He reasoned that the crop failures caused by drought would be followed by a succession of abundant crops, and that grasshoppers might never return again, and his faith was vindicated. The risks his bank took, which in some cases caused his wisdom as a banker to be challenged, turned out to be bread cast upon the waters to bring him an hundredfold. Prosperity restored, business men and farmers, who had been borrowers of his bank, with a few years of good crops and good business became themselves money lenders and depositors, with the result that the deposits of LATTÄ's bank were greatly augmented. I have not heard that Mr. LATTÄ in his young manhood aspired to a political career, and infer that his going into politics, being elected first as a representative to the Nebraska State Legislature, and afterwards to the State Senate, was the result of his successful and popular business and citizenship reputation. I deem it probable this was the evolution of circumstances. He had proven, even vindicated, his faith in the country and his confidence in his fellow men, and how could they better return the compliment than by showing

their confidence in him by choosing him, first as their State legislator and thereafter as their Congressman? With two terms in Congress, his political ambition was fully gratified.

For some time previous to receiving any warning of his affliction which proved to be fatal, he had declared his intention to not be a candidate for renomination or reelection. He had also stated to friends that he would not entertain the thought of a candidacy for governor, for which he had received favorable mention. He regarded his two terms in Congress as a testimonial, a reward, of his previous career, the merits of his citizenship, business and otherwise, including, also, his two terms in the State legislature. Politically, his cup was full, and it was his desire to go back to the sunlit prairies, to his large farm, and behold the broad acres, heavy with grain, to hear the low of countless cattle grazing on green pastures, the industrious rattle of the mower and reaper, to scent the clover and apple blossoms, enjoy the songs of birds, and watch his herd of deer and antelope race and gambol over the hills of the ample park they feel they own.

Mr. Speaker, for his locality LATTI was a man of large wealth, and his constituents had conferred a well-earned distinction by several times choosing him as their lawmaker, State and National. He was fortunate in his domestic life. He could not have wished for more. He is survived by a most estimable wife, with sons who have already become successful and prominent and promising in business spheres. One of them has been honored by being elected mayor of the home town, which office, I think, he now holds. These worthy young men are sure to conserve and add to the property not only they inherit, but as well the good name of their distinguished father.

Mr. Speaker, with other Congressmen I was present at the funeral of Mr. LATTI. The capacity of the town

to accommodate even for the daytime the thousands of friends and admirers who came to pay their last tribute of respect to the deceased was taxed to its limit, if not overtaxed. During my stay of 24 hours it was my pleasure to converse with many who had known Mr. LATTA for years and had known as well the people of Burt County by whom Mr. LATTA was so well known, and I was deeply impressed by the numerous expressions voluntarily made of the high esteem in which he was held. The personal popularity of which I was so strongly convinced he had enjoyed and deserved to enjoy explained fully to me why it was and how it was that Mr. LATTA, a Democrat, in a county which was normally Republican by seven or eight hundred, had been able in his several campaigns to carry the county by so large a majority.

In the throng that assembled at the tomb on the green tableland which overlooks the peaceful Missouri Valley were men of every calling and every variation of political faith. Settlers who had been carried through depression, pioneers whose faltering courage had been sustained in seasons of distress, and business men who had found help in periods of panic came to mourn the loss of the man who was ever a vitalizing force in the community where he had established his home. And while older men remembered many a kindly act, the young looked away from the quiet resting place, there in the State which had been the land of promise to the Iowa boy of long ago, and felt within them the power to make much of their opportunities.

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Surely, the value of a man's life, the true meaning of his span of years, shall be measured not in material possessions or even in special achievements, but in his relations to his fellow men. If he shall have in him the spirit which recognizes the universal brotherhood, and if he shall be guided by that spirit, then he is to be numbered

among those whose sojourn in the world has made the world better. By this measure JAMES P. LATTA is to be remembered as one of the Nation's builders, a man who labored conscientiously in a small way at first, because he could cheerfully accept as his task whatever was nearest to his hand. With a large faith in humanity, as well as in opportunity, he held himself loyally to the work of developing his part of the country, and thus he contributed liberally to the general welfare—thus he set the example of noble citizenship which prepares wisely and abundantly for future generations.

In the years that are coming the influence of JAMES P. LATTA will remain potent. The love and gratitude which he kindled in the hearts of all who knew him will stimulate effort and preserve high ideals which will be passed on. This is the rich heritage that he left, and all who contemplate it must bow in reverence to the name that will stand in Nebraska for all the sterling virtues, the kindly sympathies, the unselfish traits, and the exalted ideals which combine to make a man the representative of the highest type of American citizenship.

ADDRESS OF MR. NORRIS, OF NEBRASKA

MR. SPEAKER: When the history of the great West is written and the story of the development and the advancement, the civilization, the progress of education on the Great Plains is told it will be found that JAMES P. LATTA, late Member of this body, and to other men like him, is due more than to any other class of people the wonderful development of that country, the wonderful progress of education, of civilization, and of advancement.

Born of humble parents, living, as I understand it, a life of poverty, he struggled along through life learning from his own experience every one of the trials and difficulties that beset the pioneer. That he was successful in his life financially and politically and in every other honorable respect only goes to demonstrate that he was made of the stuff that constitutes the truest and the noblest manhood.

In our great Commonwealth Congressman LATTA took a prominent part in every one of its steps of advancement. He was there at the beginning; he saw it develop into a great garden spot. He came into the country when it was uninhabited, save by the red men; he saw it pass through all its trials and its troubles, and finally develop into one of the greatest agricultural sections of the country, if not of the entire civilized world. He lived in the midst of its greatest development. He was part and parcel of the advancement that it made. He was moved, Mr. Speaker, by no great personal ambition; he had no particular desire for honor or achievement, but he did every day what he believed was his duty to perform.

Many are the incidents that could be recounted, in addition to those that have been spoken of, that showed, during his life and the development of his great State, the wonderful tenderness of his heart as well as the ability of the man in a business direction. He never sought public office. He had decided, long before it was known either to him or to his friends that his days were numbered, that he would not again be a candidate for election to the House of Representatives. When this announcement was made in the newspapers of Nebraska there was immediate mention of his name in connection with the governorship of our State, but he promptly stated through the public press that at the expiration of his term he would never again seek or accept public office.

He had led an eventful life, marked by honorable deeds all the way through. He had been successful in business, and he desired to put in the balance of his days in living a quiet life in his own home, enjoying the well-earned competency that his efforts had brought to him, and therefore he declined all further political honor. If he had consented to the use of his name as a candidate, it is my judgment that there would have been but little if any opposition to his nomination for that office. His life is emblematic of what comes to the life of the higher class of pioneers. They are courageous, honest, and tender-hearted. The many deeds of kindness that marked his pathway through this world would be an honor to the heritage of any man, and if at his funeral, around his open grave, every man to whom he had done a favor or a kind deed would have thrown upon the coffin a rose of recollection his grave would have been filled with the fragrant flowers of remembrance.

Mr. Speaker, I believe in an immortality. I believe that beyond this life there is an existence better, higher, and

happier than the life we live here—a life of everlasting peace, of eternal bliss. We can not brush away the tear from the aged widow's cheek; we can not banish the sorrow from the hearts of loving children and loyal friends, but we can, even in this hour, reach a condition of satisfaction, almost of joy, at the thought that he whose loss we now mourn, while he was among us, planted along the thorny pathway we must all tread flowers that are blooming for our benefit, for our happiness, and for the comfort and pleasure of those who follow. Mr. Speaker, the Kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but it is love, peace, and joy. Into that kingdom Congressman LATTA has entered, and that peace he now enjoys. We can confer no greater honor upon his memory than to practice the virtues that the story of his life has taught us. We can do nothing greater or grander for the upbuilding of humanity than to remember the example of his everyday life from the time he was a penniless boy walking across the plains of Iowa to his pioneer Nebraska home up to the time of the close of his eventful career. Believing in the life he led, having faith in his honesty, in his integrity, recognizing the benefit that his life has been to humanity, to a broader belief in the Fatherhood of God and the fraternity of humanity, I want to say: Honor to his memory here, peace to his ashes now, rest and repose to his soul beyond.

ADDRESS OF MR. SLOAN, OF NEBRASKA

MR. SPEAKER: A stalwart member of our Nebraska delegation in his late sixties has fallen. The affliction which wasted his vigor and drained his life was brief.

Few men of his age came to this House with form so erect, carriage so virile, and such goodly physique as JAMES P. LATTA. His name, personality, and presence would trace his ancestry near unto the channel which divides the land of Moore and Burns. His facial dress and courteous bearing favor an earlier ancestral strain. So, I believe, we had in him a mingling of the Celt and Gaul.

He was a distant neighbor of my parents in eastern Iowa. He left that place the year I was born. His span of life and activities covered two pioneer periods; one of these in a forest county bordering the Mississippi, the other a somewhat similar county in Nebraska bordering the Missouri. Before his life ended the Nebraska pioneer period had passed; its boundaries had inclosed as fair a field, subdued and adorned by the arts of genius and industry, and its people registered as great an intellectual and moral advance as any part of this superb Union.

I visited his farm home and saw his devotion to the tree planters' cause in the care of the natural forestry as well as the magnificent trees of his own early planting. He was an advocate of tree planting, for which our State is named and famed. Among these sported the herds of deer and antelope—forest denizens, which he kept and for which he cared. It was a devotion to the lessons and memory of his youth to love the trees, to preserve and build the forest, and so follow the motto of Nebraska's

great secretary, who, in season and out of season, bade the world "Plant trees."

So I thought of my friend LATTA's untimely taking off in figure and imagery of trees. His fall from the appearance of health and strength was the fall of the oak. In the country where he and I spent our respective youths there grew the bending willow, the swaying birch, and the monarch oak. I have seen all of these lashed by the storm. I have seen the droop and disfigurement of willow and birch, but the oak, in all its sturdy grandeur, stood defiant. I have seen a later storm further wound and disfigure willow and birch which still stood to live a weakened life and a delayed dissolution; but the oak, once betraying a weakened heart, defective body, or decayed root, under the blast of the elements fell with mighty crash, there prone to lie in sublime humility where the shadow of its once proud form had rested. So the human willow or birch oft becomes the scriptural trespasser of fourscore years, while the human oak is not permitted its span of threescore and ten.

There are men who strive for the unattainable and expend their energies in vain though perhaps laudable pursuit; there are those whose faith would move mountains; and there are those whose ideals, pressed with industry and vigor, inspire the living and generations to come. Congressman LATTA was not one of these. There are those who, attempting to move no mountains, lift from the human path obstructing stones; there are those who see the immediate problems of life and solve them; and there are those who see a present task and hasten to perform it with what diligence and ability they possess. Of this latter class was the Congressman. Through a useful and active life he met with resolution and industry the tasks and problems which confronted him. He did not pause to regret yesterday's lost oppor-

tunity or dream of to-morrow's mighty achievement. He did the homely duty of to-day. He was a type of Nebraska pioneer; one of that class who came and stayed; the class that inconvenience of frontier life did not fret, frowning nature did not frighten, pestilence did not dishearten, and poverty did not present itself as a tarrying guest.

He had faith in the Golden West, but he looked not for metal in Pikes Peak slope or California gulch. He looked to his steps and saw beneath his feet more gold in the rich and fecund soil of Nebraska plains than all the Rocky Mountain yield or added coasts' production or yet the product of the Klondike or South Africa's golden store. In this he saw not wealth in lucky strike or deep and devious vein. That, to be pursued, meant leaving the sunshine and pure air of heaven to dig and delve in darkened pit where nauseous gases are. He saw, in prospect, reasonable wealth to be had by stirring seasonably the rich surface, seeding with scientific purpose, cultivating with the art of an engineer, garnering with care, and marketing like an economist. Good results and fair reward for him and those about him of his bent and energy followed, so that Mr. LATTA, in building up himself and fortune, drew his community measurably with him.

In the economy of sentiment and practice "neighbor" is a great word. From a neighborhood there can not be banished envy, jealousy, unwarranted grudge, or even hate. But the man who can overstep these, reduce each of them to a minimum, and command the respect, obtain the support of not only friend and ally, but those of different political faith or business affiliation, has not lived his life in vain. That man has achieved one of earth's sweetest, if not most commanding, distinctions.

JAMES P. LATTA was a neighborhood man. His business associates depended on his ripened judgment. His com-

petitors respected his methods and admired his ability. His fellow citizens, overlooking party ties, supported most liberally his political aspirations. His church valued highly his membership, his lodge esteemed his fraternal support, and his family saw in him the qualities of which devoted husband and worthy father are composed.

I had met him casually in Nebraska and found him friendly and courteous. When I first came to Washington we talked about many practical matters touching a new Congressman's work. Of these he seemed to have a special grasp and freely communicated many helpful suggestions. As I saw more of him I learned more of why he stood so well at home. His bent of mind and corresponding course of action followed practical lines. He talked with a calm and modest pride of his district, its people, and its resources. I assume that, thinking of these, talking of these, and acting concerning these, in his everyday intercourse and relation with his neighbors, inspired a confidence in his honesty and rectitude, which, after all, goes a long way to supplant ultrapartisanship. So it was, whenever he appealed to the people of his county their response was generous and whole-hearted.

Our friend LATTA has answered the question of his being—"whither?" We do not know what message he would return if the question of time should be submitted to him in regions eternal. We are taught the equality of action and reaction, and the unerring relation of cause and effect. Every lesson of well-founded faith indicates the life to come to be a realization of the feeble suggestions read in the acts of this life. If doing well the tasks of earth is warrant for fitting compensation when time shall cease, then Congressman LATTA is enjoying his reward.

Mr. Maguire of Nebraska took the chair as Speaker pro tempore.

ADDRESS OF MR. LOBECK, OF NEBRASKA

MR. SPEAKER: We meet to-day to pay tribute to the memory of our friend and colleague, the Hon. JAMES P. LATTA.

For over 30 years it was my great privilege to know, personally, Congressman LATTA, and from the first day I became acquainted with him I realized I was in the presence of a manly man, a strong, noble character, whose word was as good as the safest bond, and who commanded, by his daily life, the respect and confidence of his neighbors in every avenue of life's activity.

During life he was actively engaged in the banking business, also attending to and supervising his farms near Tekamah. Being a keen observer of events, with great foresight he acquired much land near his home, which has since become very valuable. His great success in life, in all his undertakings, may be attributed to the uprightness and honesty which he displayed in all his dealings with his fellow man, observing in his daily practice the golden rule—doing unto others as he would be done by.

Congressman LATTA was a strong man of the common people. His ability to use common sense, his knowledge of men, and his foresightedness were keen and his judgment clear on all matters that confronted him. These characteristics made him a giant among all men, and his opinion and judgment were eagerly sought and accepted as coming from one clothed with authority.

In his dealings with the pioneer settlers of northeastern Nebraska he was kind and fair; he knew their struggles in developing that new country; he held out

to them a helping hand; and many well-to-do, aye, even wealthy, farmers in his region owe a large measure of their success to the kindness of JAMES P. LATTA. No better corroboration of this statement can be made than the high respect in which he was held by these pioneer settlers. They showed their devotion for him throughout his political career. No office in his State, had he desired it, would they have withheld. They gave further evidence of their love and respect for him when, with the great men of their State, they gathered from near and far to pay their last loving tribute in accompanying his remains to their last resting place.

I met him first when I was a commercial traveler. Often, and on nearly every trip, it was a pleasure to me to go into his bank and visit him. He was so strong, yet so kind and cheerful, that when I left him the world seemed brighter for having met him. The greatest inspiration to our fellow men is to scatter sunshine as we pass by with a happy smile, a cheerful word, kindly advice, and by lending a helping hand. This was one of his strong characteristics. The Master, the gentle Nazarene, understood kindness, taught it, and it has ever been so and will be until the end of time.

I knew Congressman LATTA in public life as a member of the lawmaking bodies of the State of Nebraska. He commanded, while serving in this capacity, the respect of his fellow legislators and his opinion was eagerly sought by his colleagues and his votes always cast on the basis of equal justice to all. It was my pleasure to campaign in his district at his first election to Congress. Everywhere I went the pioneers knew "JIM LATTA," and every one loved and respected him. When, later, my people honored me by electing me a Member of this Congress, among the first to congratulate me was JAMES P. LATTA.

Upon coming here he personally gave me the benefit of his experience; to me he was as a brother—nay, more, a wise counselor—and was so kind in helping me in every way that I at once felt at home in my new work and new associations.

When his illness came he could not understand it. To me it seemed so strange to see this strong, rugged man feel weary; but it was the final call. When he left for his home to rest, as he hoped for, we waited for good news. Every day the Members would ask me, "How is Mr. LATTA?" They knew him, respected and loved him. We hoped and wished for a speedy recovery and watched for news from the sick room, until one day the news flashed over the wires, "JAMES P. LATTA is no more."

It was my sad privilege to attend the funeral of my friend. A great concourse of neighbors were present to pay final tribute, thus showing the esteem in which he was held. Gentle hands laid him away on a great hill overlooking to the east the State of Iowa, to the north and south the great Missouri River, and to the west the beautiful farms of Nebraska.

JAMES P. LATTA loved his country, his flag, and the Nation. He loved, too, his adopted State of Nebraska. He had known the State for nearly a lifetime. He and his beloved companion knew by experience the struggles of the pioneer. He had seen his great State grow. He had helped develop it to become one of the greatest agricultural lands, and it was fitting that at the close of his busy life he should be laid away along the banks of the great Missouri, overlooking the fairest of lands, the States he loved best.

No language or words of mine could do justice to the strong character and upright manhood of JAMES P. LATTA. His daily life is his best eulogy. In his passing away his

city, his State, and the Nation lost a noble, true-hearted, and upright citizen.

To me it was a personal loss. He was my counselor and my friend, and I accord it a high privilege to pay tribute to his memory here to-day.

Mr. STEPHENS of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, a number of the Members of the House who desired to speak to-day are necessarily absent, and I ask unanimous consent that those who wish to do so may have the privilege for five days of extending remarks in the Record upon the life, character, and services of the late Hon. JAMES P. LATTA.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Lobeck). The gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. Stephens] asks unanimous consent that Members wishing to extend their remarks may have that privilege. Is there objection?

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT

In accordance with the resolution previously agreed to; and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Mr. LATTA, the House (at 2 o'clock and 9 minutes p. m.) adjourned until to-morrow, Monday, May 27, 1912, at 11 o'clock a. m.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE SENATE

TUESDAY, *December 5, 1911.*

The PRESIDENT pro tempore (Mr. Curtis). The Chair lays before the Senate resolutions from the House of Representatives, which will be read.

The Secretary read the resolutions, as follows:

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Hon. JAMES P. LATTA, late a Representative from the State of Nebraska.

Resolved, That the Clerk of the House be directed to transmit a copy of these resolutions to the Senate.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I offer the following resolutions and ask for their adoption.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The resolutions submitted by the Senator from Nebraska will be read.

The resolutions were read, considered by unanimous consent, and unanimously agreed to, as follows:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with deep sensibility the announcement of the death of Hon. JAMES P. LATTA, late a Representative from the State of Nebraska.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate a copy of these resolutions to the House of Representatives and to the family of the deceased.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Member I move that the Senate adjourn.

The motion was unanimously agreed to, and (at 3 o'clock and 12 minutes p. m.) the Senate adjourned until Thursday, December 7, 1911, at 2 o'clock p. m.

TUESDAY, *February 11, 1913.*

Mr. HITCHCOCK. Mr. President, I should like to give notice that on Saturday, March 1, I will ask the Senate to consider resolutions commemorative of the life and public services of the late JAMES P. LATTA, a Member of the House of Representatives from Nebraska.

SATURDAY, *March 1, 1913.*

The Senate met at 10 o'clock a. m.

The Chaplain, Rev. Ulysses G. B. Pierce, D. D., offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we thank Thee for the gracious Providence which brings us to this day of solemn and reverent memory. As we recall the life and public service of him whom we this day commemorate, we pray Thee to inspire our minds and to give utterance to our lips that we may fitly honor the life which Thou hast called to Thy nearer presence and to Thy higher service.

We pray Thee, our Father, to comfort those that mourn. Uphold them by Thy heavenly grace and grant that neither height of remembered joys nor the depth of sorrows that can not be forgotten, nor the present with its burdens nor the future with its loneliness may be able to separate them from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In the name of Him who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light, hear Thou our prayer. Amen.

Mr. Gallinger took the chair as President pro tempore under the previous order of the Senate.

The Secretary proceeded to read the Journal of yesterday's proceedings, when, on request of Mr. Smoot and by unanimous consent, the further reading was dispensed with and the Journal was approved.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE SENATE

Mr. HITCHCOCK. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate resolutions of the House of Representatives on the death of my late colleague in that body, JAMES P. LATTA.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore (Mr. Gallinger). The Chair lays before the Senate resolutions from the House of Representatives, which the Secretary will read.

The Secretary read the resolutions, as follows:

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

May 26, 1912.

Resolved, That the business of the House be now suspended, that opportunity may be given to pay tribute to the memory of Hon. JAMES P. LATTA, late a Member of the House from the State of Nebraska.

Resolved, That as a particular mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, and in recognition of his distinguished public career, the House, at the conclusion of these exercises, shall stand adjourned.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

Resolved, That the Clerk send a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

Mr. HITCHCOCK. Mr. President, I offer the resolutions which I send to the desk and ask for their adoption.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nebraska submits resolutions, which will be read.

The resolutions (S. Res. 494) were read, considered by unanimous consent, and unanimously agreed to, as follows:

Resolved, That the Senate expresses its profound sorrow on account of the death of the Hon. JAMES P. LATTA, late a Member of the House of Representatives from the State of Nebraska.

Resolved, That the business of the Senate be now suspended, in order that fitting tribute may be paid his high character and distinguished public services.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate a copy of these resolutions to the House of Representatives and to the family of the deceased.

ADDRESS OF MR. HITCHCOCK, OF NEBRASKA

MR. PRESIDENT: The life of JAMES P. LATTA was typical of our country's recent progress. Born in Ohio in 1844, during his childhood he went with his parents to Iowa, then in her first development. There he remained until 18 years of age, when, a mere boy, becoming ambitious to find for himself a new home in the farther West, he secured the consent of his father, and alone, on foot, started across the State of Iowa to seek a home in the State of Nebraska. I say this is typical of our American progress, for the tide of population has flowed from the East toward the West in a never-ceasing stream, and ambitious men, like Representative LATTA's father and like Representative LATTA himself, have turned their faces to the westward and sought their new homes in the "promised land."

Mr. LATTA's life was also illustrative of our American development. Beginning life as a young man upon a farm on the banks of the Missouri River in Nebraska, by industry and thrift, by intelligence and energy, he gradually acquired a competence, established for himself a home, developed a prosperous farm, and, after 15 years of highly successful farming, was able to enter the banking business, in which he met with equal, if not greater, success.

Following his experience as a banker, in the riper years of his life he secured the confidence and esteem of his neighbors to such an extent that he was successively elected treasurer of his home town, mayor of the town, later to the legislature, first as representative and then as State senator, and finally, toward the close of his event-

ful life, he was elected a Member of the House of Representatives from the third Nebraska district.

I say that in this respect his life has been typical of American development, because this man, with few early advantages, in spite of great obstacles, not only walked to his new western home, but, starting with nothing, made himself a successful farmer, and after being a successful farmer, made himself a successful banker, and stepped naturally into the public service by reason of the great confidence reposed in him by his neighbors and friends.

JAMES P. LATTI was an unusual man, Mr. President. Strong of body and strong of mind, with a great heart and a broad sympathy, he was not content to win success for himself alone, but he became a tower of strength in the community in which he lived. In the times of stress and disaster in 1893, when the whole West was in a condition of depression, when farmers were in distress, when business men were in embarrassment, JAMES P. LATTI, then the prosperous farmer and successful banker, was not content to look after himself alone, for he realized his responsibility to the community in which he lived and to the neighbors who surrounded him, and not only exhausted all his own personal resources in assisting them in their distress, but, to my certain knowledge, he took of his good securities, came to the East, and pledged them in order to raise money that he might lend it to his less successful neighbors. This great act of his saved many from bankruptcy in those days, enabling a great many farmers in his own county to hold the properties which they had mortgaged. And when the clouds had cleared away and prosperity had again come to Nebraska and the West, it was no wonder that those neighbors of his insisted on elevating him to the position of their Representative at Washington.

He won his success not because he was in political accord with his constituents, but because he had such a hold upon their sympathies and their confidence that they voluntarily sent him to Washington.

I shall long remember some of the sights which I witnessed upon the occasion of his second campaign in that district. He was kind enough to take me through the district and introduce me to his friends, I being then a candidate for the Senate, and I remember how all over that district he was hailed not simply as their Representative in Congress, but hailed as their father and their protector because of the sacrifices which he had made in their interest.

When, at the end of a long nine days' trip, during which we had stopped at a hundred different towns in his district, on a certain golden afternoon in our wonderful Indian summer we reached his home town for the final meeting in that campaign, the outpouring of the people, his neighbors and his friends, to welcome him, without regard to party, with closed stores and closed offices, with shouts and huzzas and an enthusiasm rarely equaled in a local candidate, was something I shall long remember.

He was an unusual man—unusual in his strength, unusual in his sympathies, unusual in his courage, and unusual in the fact that he was able, after a long life of toil in the business world, to enter public life and acquit himself honorably and creditably.

ADDRESS OF MR. BROWN, OF NEBRASKA

MR. TOWNSEND. Mr. President, the senior Senator from Nebraska [Mr. Brown] is unavoidably absent, having been compelled to be away from the city this afternoon. He has prepared, however, a loving and sincere tribute to his late colleague in the House, and he has asked me to present it to the Senate for him this evening, which duty I very gladly perform.

He says:

I knew Congressman LATTA first when he was a State senator in the Nebraska Legislature. At that time, as attorney general of the State, I had necessary occasion to know at first-hand the character of the man. He was true and faithful. His good sense, his business head, and his honest heart made him a foremost factor in that body and won for him the confidence and esteem of all his colleagues and the appreciative regard and respect of his constituents. His record was clean. Early in that service he developed a fearless indifference to his own political fortune. His sole guide and inspiration seemed to be the welfare of the people—all of them. He never divided the people into classes. Whether men were engaged on the farm or on the range, in the store or in the factory, in the banking house or in the railway headquarters, he treated them all alike and stood for a square deal for each and all. He was true to this standard throughout his service in the American Congress.

In his campaigns Mr. LATTA was never known to appeal to class prejudice in order to win votes for himself or his party. He was too patriotic to do that. He was too square in thought and character to resort to this easy

though crooked method of electing himself to office. He was, therefore, a most wholesome influence in politics. Let me say to the honor of the people of the State who elected him first to the State senate and then to the National House of Representatives and to the honor of all the people of that rich and progressive State, they, like him, are good and true and square. Their ideals, like his, are high and noble, and they, like him, are devoted to the upbuilding and advancement of American ideals and institutions. If men like LATTA, modest and conscientious, earnest and vigilant, unafraid of personal political mishap, could always be found to serve in office the future welfare of this country and its institutions would be secure.

Mr. LATTA was steadfast in his devotion and in his service to the people who had elected him. He was a great man in the sense that greatness is measured by sincerity, capacity, and industry. He had the courage and determination of the pioneer. From the day he took a homestead in the State of Nebraska to the hour of his death he stood and fought for his country's welfare and for civic standards of high and noble character. In politics he was partisan, believing in the agency of political parties as the most practical instrument through which to determine and establish State and National policies. As a Member of Congress and as a servant of his constituents he talked for good things, and he always voted as he talked.

In one respect Mr. LATTA was a remarkable man; he had the trait of character which in these more recent days is not found too frequently in public men—he did not advertise his own honesty by impugning the motives of others. He never assumed to be the only honest friend the people had in Congress. He had another remarkable trait—he devoted himself to quietly serving the peo-

ple faithfully, and therefore he furnished few headlines for the newspapers. He allowed his service to speak for itself and he left the advertising politician a free hand. Should the days of pretension and hypocrisy ever overtake this country, men of LATTA's character would receive scant recognition.

By every test Congressman JAMES P. LATTA was a good man, and this is the highest tribute that can be paid to any man. He hated everything wrong and mean; he loved everything good and right.

The life that counts must toil and fight,
Must hate the wrong and love the right,
Must stand by truth by day, by night;
This is the life that counts.

The life that counts must hopeful be,
In darkest night make melody,
Must wait the dawn on bended knee;
This is the life that counts.

The life that counts is lived with God,
And runs not from the cross, the rod,
But walks with joy where Jesus trod;
This is the life that counts.





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